



Tamara, Janine, and Katherine Arrive in Bermuda

STUDENTS ATTEND COUNSELING CONFERENCE *Bermuda Site of Annual Confab*

By Janine Farraj

Bermuda! Balmy breezes, pink coral sands and water so blue that it seems to be right off the color chart. An intersession trip to a tropical paradise? Hardly.

Rather, it was the 18th Annual Conference for Counseling and Treating People of Color, co-founded by Dr. Frances Brisbane and Dr. Vincent Bakeman, held at the Fairmont Southampton Princess Hotel in Hamilton, Bermuda.

Three students from St. Joseph's were selected to attend the conference: Tamara Bacchus, Katherine Solis, and Janine Farraj, all of whom work in the Admissions Office. They were accompanied by Ms. Theresa La Rocca Meyer, Director of Admissions at the college.

For several years, two of the main funders of the conference have been the Human Resources Development Institute of Chicago, Illinois, and SUNY Stony Brook.

Each year, the group holds an international conference planning schedule over the course of several months to select hotels, sites, and iron out other details. Also included in the planning stage are individuals from the country in which the conference is held.

The conferences have maintained their international perspective by being held in different nations around the world. They focus upon such subjects as physical health, mental health, substance abuse, AIDS, violence, and education.

At each conference, specialists in a variety of fields address major issues at the daily sessions. Those

attending come away with a new awareness of the subjects and how they affect people in the particular country that is being visited.

Speeches and reflections have also been provided from citizens of these countries—people who have first-hand knowledge and experiences about daily life and the struggles that exist there.

In addition to the plenary sessions chaired by the professionals, there are separate sessions which are solely for the collegiate group and the youth group.

Following the full scale meetings, smaller workshop groups were created for a more in depth discussion of individual issues.

At the collegiate sessions, the students from SJC had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with students from Hofstra University, SUNY Stony Brook, Washington university, and Bermuda College.

"This was an unbelievable experience," said Tamara Bacchus. "I met such wonderful people at this conference, and I hope I was able to make a difference during my stay in Bermuda," she added.

This year's keynote speaker was the Honorable M. Jocelyn Elders, M.D, former Surgeon General in the Clinton Administration.

Dr. Elders addressed the issue of AIDS, education, some of her specialties. She also spent time over the course of two days speaking to as many of the 460 attendees as she could on a personal basis.

"The youth of today are responsible for shaping the world of tomorrow," said Dr. Elders.

It was her hope that these youth groups would continue to make wise decisions not only for themselves, but for the children that they would eventually bring into the world.

"Teaching must happen early enough to teach young children morals to prevent them from falling into the traps of AIDS and violent behavior," said Dr. Elders.

The conference organizer, Dr. Brisbane, has long experience in dealing with social issues.

"I was really impressed by the number of people in attendance and by Dr. Brisbane's accomplishments for this program over the course of years," said Katherine Solis.

Dr. Brisbane spoke of the strengths of the program saying, "I believe this is a wonderful program to have people come together from all over the country to set up a networking system so they can become consultants for one another."

Her main goal has been to educate people about the major social issues of the day and have people from different countries seek solutions that are culture-specific.

Another of Dr. Brisbane's goals is to receive more funding for the youth program and to see a stronger focus upon youthful involvement along with adult mentoring and role modeling for world youth.

Next year's conference will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico from October 26-30, 2005.

Additional information about Dr. Brisbane's program can be obtained by reaching her at the School of Social Welfare at SUNY Stony Brook.

KNIGHT MOVES HOLDS CHESS TOURNAMENT

By Svetlana Medvedeva

It's not exactly what you would call a big-time spectator sport. In fact, in the United States, chess probably hasn't been televised since Bobby Fischer beat Boris Spasky for the World Championship twenty years ago—and then, it was only seen on Public Broadcasting channels.

But in other parts of the world, people are as passionate about chess as Americans are about baseball or NASCAR.

A little bit of that enthusiasm drifted onto the St. Joseph's campus from November 30th to December 2nd, 2004 when Knight Moves, St. Joe's chess club, held its annual tournament.

Held in the Red Room of Tuohy Hall, the tournament featured 8 players competing for cash prizes of \$25, \$15 and \$10 for first, second and third places respectively.

The Knight Moves Tournament was won by Alex Podushko, who is also the president of the club.

"Chess is a strategy game so it helps in everyday life. It teaches us that to win, you have to sacrifice and have a long-range plan, and that is what real life is all about," says Alex.

Second place in the tournament went to Sophomore Gurgit Singh who said of the event, "I would like to see the size of the tournament expand next time to encompass more players. It was fun, interesting, and a real workout for the mind."

The Knight Moves Chess Club is moderated by Assistant Director of the ACES Program, Michael Larson.

"Even though I don't know very much about chess, and was not certain that I was supposed to be the club's moderator, I admire the enthusiasm of these young players and hope to work with them on their future activities."

Knight Moves is planning another tournament for the spring semester. The times and details will be forthcoming after the term begins.



Qi Bin Li Ponders his Next Move

MATH HELP AVAILABLE TO ALL STUDENTS

By Gurgit Singh

Unless you are a math major, or have had an exceptionally good background in math from elementary school through high school, the thought of taking college-level mathematics can be daunting.

Some students avoid it as long as they possibly can, but inevitably, it is a requirement for graduation and so they must screw their courage to the sticking place and enrol.

Too often, trouble immediately ensues—but at SJC, help is now available to those who face daily struggles with math.

Professor Edward Grant of the Mathematics Department, along with several volunteer students have instituted a Math Help

program to assist any St. Joseph's student in need of assistance.

Professor Grant explains the rationale behind the program, saying, "There are a number of borderline students in Math 106 and Pre-Calculus that could really use a boost through one-on-one tutoring."

The tutoring program is designed to firm up basic mathematical skills, especially in algebra. Furthermore, it attempts to change the way in which students approach the solving of mathematical problems.

Starting in February of 2005, the Math Help Program will be available on Tuesdays during common hour from 12:30 to 1:30 PM.

Professor Grant plans on recruit-

ing more tutors from amongst his former students who received the grade of A in his classes.

He feels that students will be very receptive to receiving help from their peers and that the very act of tutoring will help expand the mathematical horizons of those who have volunteered to assist as well as their knowledge of the history of the entire subject.

Specific information about signing up for math help, either as a student or a tutor, will be available at the beginning of the spring semester in the Mathematics Department and will be advertised through flyers posted prominently throughout the school.

EDITORIAL

AS WE DESCEND INTO MADNESS

Now that the holiday season has passed us by, perhaps this is a time to consider some of the troubling things that came to light leading up to and amidst all the comfort and joy of the time—things that directly reflect our freedom and what our nation has become.

Item: a high school band in New Jersey is prohibited from playing any Christmas carols or Hanukkah songs during its winter concert. Item: an elementary school in Maryland holds a Thanksgiving celebration wherein children are asked to say what they are thankful for—but are prohibited from thanking God for anything. Item: the U.S. Supreme Court forces the removal of a stone representation of the Ten Commandments from the front lawn of the Alabama Supreme Court—but those same Ten Commandments hang in the nation's Supreme Court Building. Item: the U.S. Supreme Court is asked to rule on the Constitutionality of the Phrase "one nation, under God," in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Spirit believes that one fundamental question must be asked here: have we all gone mad?

The Constitution of the United States puts it plainly and succinctly:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;" Does anyone with the slightest bit of rationality honestly believe that the singing of a Christmas carol at a holiday concert is equatable to the establishment of a religion—or that it abridges their right to worship as they see fit?

There is a disease of epidemic proportions in our nation. It is an attempt to take God out of *everything* in our lives—and it occurs when political pundits and Supreme Court justices try to get into the heads of the framers of the Constitution to understand what they meant in the words of the document. And the symptoms of the ailment? They conclude that anything mentioning God is a threat to America, and yet they refuse to acknowledge that the Founding Fathers were deeply spiritual people. Jefferson, himself, alludes to God *four* times in the Declaration of Independence.

Of course, a school district in California wants to forbid the teaching of the Declaration precisely *because* it mentions God. Can other school districts be far behind?

Think of the potential damage to the education of children. Think of the potential blows this pattern of thinking can deal to Western Civilization: students in public schools may no longer be permitted to hear Handel's *Messiah*, or Bach's *B Minor Mass* or Mozart's *Requiem Mass*.

Educators worry constantly about the "dumbing down" of America, but these same educators see no harm in 'sheltering' young people from some of the greatest creations the human mind has ever produced.

Is it a *reductio ad absurdum* to think that this 'disease' could spread to college classrooms in public universities such as CUNY or SUNY? On the surface, there seems to be no difference in infecting minds through the singing of "Joy to the World" in high school, and learning about the religious compositions of Palestrina in a music history class in college.

Shall we forbid students to look at the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel because of its religious imagery? Or maybe we should excise DaVinci's "The Last Supper" from art textbooks so we do not offend anyone's sensibilities. And then—and this is possibly the most frightening notion of all—should we simply pretend that these college graduates are really educated, not having been exposed to great milestones of our culture?

And so for many American school children, the holidays will ever be associated with such classics as "Frosty the Snowman" and "I Had a Little Dreidel"—and all in the name of 'separation of Church and State'—a phrase, by the way, that *never* once appears in the Constitution. It did, however, appear in a letter written by Thomas Jefferson, and was reaffirmed in the 1940s by Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black—a former KKK member and a rabid hater of Roman Catholicism.

We smugly believe that we are intellectually superior to the founders and framers of our nation. "In God we trust" was good enough for them. Why isn't it good enough for us?



What's Next?

THE SPIRIT

St. Joseph's College
245 Clinton Avenue
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The spirit encourages letters to the editor concerning editorials, articles, and policy. Letters can be left in Dr. Weiner's mailbox.

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Talking Points

By Christina Contessa

HOLLYWOOD TYPES: KEEP YOUR NOSES OUT OF POLITICS

During the last political season, we were bombarded with messages from public figures that we love and respect telling us who to vote for.

Whether it was at an awards ceremony or during a simple interview, we were all reminded that we had to vote because it was the right thing to do.

The problem is that lately, many of these celebrities have tried to influence us in everything we do—including voting. I thought that voting was something that we, as Americans, had a right to do on our own—to vote or not vote and to vote for whoever we thought was best.

The infamous "Vote or Die" campaign was brought to us by Sean "P. Diddy" Combs. He said he did not care who we voted for, as long as we voted. This was great—for him.

He announced the campaign in late 2003 when he claimed that he wanted to get "20 million loud and strong" to vote.

Mr. Combs is everywhere a young person turns nowadays. He has his own clothing line, he owns his own restaurant, he is a rap artist, a writer, a producer—and now he has thrown his hat into political business.

Though he says he has no interest in running for mayor next year, something tells me that he might surprise us all. But, we can never really expect something normal from the flamboyant Mr. Combs.

Mr. Combs has many other celebrities working with him to get people ages 18-25 to vote. Of course, half of those celebrities didn't vote themselves, but it was a good photo-op and sound byte nonetheless for personalities that qualify as soon to be "has-beens."

I mean, come on. Chevy Chase? No one ever took him seriously when he was hot. But to listen to him playing the role of political pundit and analyst is simply laughable.

I think the message to these so-called stars should be, "Practice what you preach."

Why on earth should we listen to these people who think they have a divine right to preach to us—who think they always take the moral high-road on issues and parlay their show business names for their own political agendas when they are in fact devoid of any kind of political acumen whatsoever?

Does anyone with even a morsel of intelligence really vote for a particular candidate because Leo DiCaprio says so? Or Whoopi Goldberg? Or Janine Garafalo?

It's as mindless as buying a pair of sneakers simply because some overpaid college dropout endorses them (for millions upon millions of dollars).

If we behaved that way, then America truly would be a nation of lemmings—heading over the side of a cliff to the oblivion below.

When Bruce Springsteen joined a bunch of other 'celebrities' and

wanted to "get Bush out of office," they staged concerts in all the swing states—states that could have decided the election one way or another.

Tens of thousands showed up for the concerts—but post-election statistics showed that very few bothered to show up at the polls.

So much for the power of celebrity endorsements. Freebie concerts don't translate into votes—now or in our nation's past.

These celebrity campaigns should not be taken seriously. If a person wants to vote, he or she will. Let someone go into a voting booth on election day and vote their choice—preferably because they have made a study of what a candidate says and not because they like the way he parts his hair or what some Hollywood personality says about him.

I understand that it is extremely important to vote. I voted myself, but I did not need someone to influence me or urge me to vote.

If anyone influenced me, it was my teachers who always impressed upon me that voting was a privilege that is given to us—a privilege that we should not take lightly.

These teachers taught me to look at both sides of an issue and to figure out how to decide who to vote for. I didn't need to hear someone like Mariah Carey urging me to vote.

Take a look at the last campaign. Consider the issues. Consider what was at stake. Did you really need some star influencing your personal decision?

YOU CAN NOW E-MAIL US!

CONTACT "THE SPIRIT" AT

sjcspspirit@yahoo.com

WE'D ENJOY HEARING FROM YOU!

THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

What is your biggest goal for the second term?



My most important goal for the spring semester is to make it on time for all my classes.
—Kristin Healy, Junior



My goal is to get As in all six of the classes that I am taking this term.
—Qi Bin Li, Junior



My goal is to get at least a B average in all my classes for second semester.
—Juanicia Whyms, Freshman



I would like to get straight A's in all my classes this semester.
—Frank Versace, Junior



My single most important goal is to do well in school. I also hope the cell phone drive for battered women is a success.
—Athena Thomas, Sophomore



My goal is to further enhance my education and enhance my college experience.
—Robbie Duran, Freshman



As my goal, I would like to excel in every class that I am taking.
—Tracie Lamothe, Junior



I want to get all A's and have a really worthwhile semester for the spring.
—Jermaine Bygrave, Junior



My goal is to see that there is a musical production for Chapel Players and to be a part of it.
—Andrea Rosado, Freshman



My goal is to continue with the success I have had in my classes—especially my Tax class.
—Anthony Fonte, Junior



My most important goal is to pass every class I take—and still have fun!
—Cassandra Seide, Freshman

Yearbook Schedules Interviews for Editorial Slots All Positions Available on '06 Book

By Janine Farraj

The word 'yearbook' is something of a misnomer. Although a yearbook is a record of a year's activities, events and personalities at a school, the word gives the impression that the production of a yearbook takes place in a year's time.

This is not the case with *Footprints*, St. Joseph College's yearbook. In fact, the production of a yearbook starts long before a senior's final year of school begins.

For this reason, Director of Student Publications Dr. Howard Weiner is holding interviews for editorial positions for *Footprints 2006* in February—of 2005!

"It takes a very special kind of student to be an editor of a yearbook," said Dr. Weiner, "and if St. Joseph's yearbooks are to compete on a national level, we must find those students very early on in the process," he continued.

In particular, Dr. Weiner is seeking several students to serve as editors-in-chief of *Footprints 2006*. The editors-in-chief, according to Dr. Weiner, "are the ones who pull the whole book together. They

have a great deal to learn and I start teaching them in February of the year before the yearbook comes out."

Candidates for the position of editor-in-chief need not have any experience with yearbooks. Strong leadership characteristics and a sense of commitment are what Dr. Weiner seeks in his editors. The knowledge and know-how about yearbook publication come in time.

Also sought are students to serve in the roles of Assistant Editor, Photography Editor, Managing Editor, Layout and Design Editor and various Section Editors including Sports, Seniors and Faculty.

"The Managing Editor is probably the second most important position on the yearbook," said Dr. Weiner, "and it dovetails well with students interested in going into a career in business," he added.

The Managing Editor is responsible for the finances of the yearbook—raising the funds that enable St. Joseph's to publish an all-color yearbook as opposed to the few pages of color that many colleges and universities now have.

Dr. Weiner, whose yearbooks at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School won numerous national prizes, has 19 years of experience as an adviser to this type of publication.

"In my 28 years of working for Taylor Publishing Company," said yearbook representative Thomas Kehoe, "I have never worked with a more dedicated adviser than Dr. Weiner. His zeal, his motivational skills, and his constant striving for excellence separate his books from every other school's that I have represented," he added.

Interviews for all editorial positions are by appointment, which can be made in the Publications Office, Room 607 of St. Angela Hall.

Interviews will begin Monday, February 14, and will continue until a staff has been chosen. All interviews will be held in the Publications Office.

"I am hopeful that students in all classes will step forward and become a part of *Footprints 2006* so that we can all learn a lot, work together, and make a great yearbook," said Dr. Weiner.

Holiday Giving Tree Gets Big Results

By Svetlana Medvedeva

For weeks before the Christmas holiday break, students and faculty members entering Tuohy Hall were greeted by the sight of a large Christmas tree decorated with numerous handmade ornaments.

This was the St. Joseph's College "Giving Tree" and it was yet another way that the college community thought of other, less fortunate individuals during the holiday season.

The "Giving Tree" was co-sponsored by the Campus Ministry and Outreach Club and the Child Study Club under the guidance of S. Susan Wilcox, Campus Minister.

The purpose of the "Giving Tree" was to provide much-needed items for the residents of Providence House, a dwelling that currently houses 15 homeless families.

The shelter is located in Bushwick, Brooklyn and is a haven for families that have lost everything and rely upon the generosity of others for their very survival.

St. Joseph's College is the primary benefactor on Providence House and the "Giving Tree" lets members of the college community take part in providing for the needs of the residents.

On each handmade ornament, there was printed the name of one of the children who currently live in the home, along with clothing sizes or other things that could prove vital to the child's maintenance.

Anyone who was interested in helping these families was instructed to take the topmost remaining ornament from the tree and purchase items described thereon.

The gift items that were purchased were then wrapped and placed beneath the tree by the second week of December to facilitate

distribution in time for the holidays.

Dozens of ornaments were made and almost all of them were taken from the tree—as evidenced by the huge pile of gifts that steadily mounted as Christmas approached—over 200 in all.

"We do this project because we want to be good neighbors to the people in our area," said S. Susan.

The "Giving Tree" was but one of a number of philanthropic activities that organizations at St. Joseph's conducted during the holiday season.

Included in this list were the sale of "SJC Cares" bracelets to commemorate World AIDS Day, the

Chapel Players' Christmas Workshop to benefit "Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS," the Dance Team and Dance Club's appearance at the Javits Center in the "Move Against AIDS" project, and the Dress for Success Club's Fashion Show to benefit the Hope World Wide AIDS foundation.

Giving and reaching out to others are year round activities at St. Joseph's College. Because need is felt so much more during the holiday season, many charitable projects and events take place at that time of the year and the "Giving Tree" is a major part of the holiday season.



The Holiday Giving Tree

Annual Trivia Challenge Ready to Roll

Best and Brightest High Schoolers Compete for Cash Prizes

By Janine Farraj

Ding Ding Ding! We have a winner! Cash prizes, gifts, food, and entertainment are everything that encompasses this year's 2nd Annual Trivia Challenge Competition hosted by the Student Ambassador Club of St. Joseph's College.

Trivia Challenge will take place on February 5, 2005 at 11 AM in the auditorium of Tuohy Hall. It will feature a selected group of area high school seniors who possess a high academic record of achievement—and a love of trivia!

The competition's game show format was designed and is completely run by the students of St. Joseph's College.

The Trivia Challenge committee was selected by Director of Admissions Theresa La Rocca Meyer two years ago and it includes Co-Presidents of the Ambassadors Club, Janine Farraj and Katherine Solis and board member Tamara Bacchus.

The committee works closely with the other members of the Student Ambassador Club who host the event. The entire activity is the product of the three aforementioned students.

"Creating this competition was a challenge for us as well as for the students who participate. We were extremely happy with the success of it last year and have even higher expectations for this year,"

said Ms. Bacchus.

Preparation for the annual Trivia Competition takes almost an entire year, but as Ms. Bacchus notes, "it has been well worth it."

Over 2000 applications were sent to high school students in the New York City metropolitan area and from that large number, 14 have been selected from public and private schools.

In order to be eligible for the competition, students needed to have a cumulative grade point average of 85 or better and at least 1000 on the SAT.

Trivia Challenge will follow the same format as last year's competition. After registration and brunch, the competition will begin in the auditorium which will be set up to look like the studio of a real game show.

The First Annual Trivia Challenge was received well both on campus and in the community. A review in *The Tablet* reported that, "Last year's Trivia Challenge event was similar to Jeopardy for teens. It was a creative and interesting way to engage high school students."

Two rounds of seven contestants will be played and questions will range in topics from Science, History, Government and Geography, Art,

Music, Literature and Popular Culture. Questions will have a point value from 10 to 50 points.

The top 3 contestants from each round will advance to the final round of 6 contestants. Once the contestants have advanced to the final round, they will compete for the top 3 prizes. The top 3 winners will receive cash prizes of \$1000 for 1st place, \$750 for 2nd place, and \$500 for 3rd place.

In addition to these rounds, there will be a guest round for 8 people who will be randomly chosen from the audience. These players will have a chance at playing in an abbreviated round with similar subject matter.

The top two contestants in this round will receive gift certificates to big-name stores. However, all contestants and guests who attend will have an opportunity to receive gifts and prizes in between rounds.

Entertainment for the event will be provided by A Touch of Class and they will be giving out numerous prizes in between game play.

All SJC staff and students are invited to attend the event and welcome and meet these contestants, many of whom are potential SJC students.

All guests will also have a chance at playing in the competition and enjoying a fun-filled day of quizzes, brain-stumpers and fun!

If you want to reserve a seat, e-mail the competition coordinators at sjcnvtriviachallenge@yahoo.com.



Last Year's Trivia Challenge Contestants



Fashion Watch

By Euphemia Misori

SOME TIPS ON SPRING FASHION

I say welcome back spring! Even with the snow on the ground, I am hopeful that we can all soon celebrate the return of warm weather by burning our sweaters and Petrograd synthetic coats in a foul-smelling pyre on the front sidewalk and stroll off for an afternoon of shopping.

Ladies! It is that time of the year-time to start shopping for spring! Here are a couple of little hints from fashion designers to keep in mind when splurging on that new wardrobe: Colors this spring include Blue Turquoise that mimics water reflecting the infinite and cloudless sky. Imagine diving from stony cliffs of Slate Gray into the Delft depths and rising to the surface with coral reef treasures. On shore, sarongs are so light amongst the vibrant green foliage blooming in lush mosaics.

Other colors for '05 include Flame, Aurora, Begonia Pink and Sweet Lavender. The mix of colors is like throwing handfuls of confetti and seeing where they land.

Pink, still fresh and relevant, has been adopted as New York's new signature color.

Color, color, color! If you watched the Oscars, you saw sprays of turquoise, nearly-neon green and bright lavenders splattered across the red carpet.

Bust out of those winter blues with some fun colorful pieces. Try a bright salmon or be bold with a lemon yellow. Work with what colors you are most comfortable with and then push that comfort zone by trying a bolder hue. Love how light blue looks on you? Try a vivid robin's egg to spruce up your complexion.

Floral is also a trend I see coming again this spring. Shedding heavy wool sweaters gives me the chance to be free in flowing, girly floral skirts. Match these light little numbers with a bright polo or an off-the-shoulder tee and you have a match made in spring break heaven.

Flirty is the way to go with skirts this season, not sluttish. Short fluffy skirts, short tight skirts, tight shirts, and spaghetti string tank tops—go with the flow and be comfortable as

well as cute. And leave a little something up to the imagination!

Three keys to remember this spring are: Bright colors=cool. Try a flirty skirt, and finally, skin is good (if not over done), so don't be afraid to bare some shoulder or show a little leg.

Ladies! Let go, have fun—and be comfortable! Spring time is for fun. Beach days are drawing near and love is in the air—be bold, my friends, and have a happy spring.

As for my guys, I can't go without giving you a shout out, and as much as we love you guys in anything, we would love to see some improvement this spring, especially with the men of St. Joe's.

First of all, keep it casual. It's short sleeves time—and that includes T-shirts. T-shirts with ring-around-the collar and pit stains, however, don't cut it. Neither do undershirts.

Short sleeve shirts are appropriate to offices that allow them, but keep them clean and ironed.

Collared dress shirts with short sleeves are fantastic, but despite your yearnings for cropped sleeves, you'll want to avoid ripping the sleeves on your dress shirts. Instead, buy a fitted shape, but nothing too tight.

Interested in suits? Spring in itself is a prelude to summer and is a sure sign that you either need to be happy with your current favorite three-season suit, or consider purchasing a new one. After all, you'll probably go to a wedding—maybe even your own if you play your cards right with a bridesmaid!

Only two piece, please—and none in pink or mint green! Stick to stone, cream, khaki and the darker blues grays and black.

Remember: lighter colors reflect sunlight. Wear a cotton khaki suit and you'll deflect heat. Wear a heavy wool in navy blue and you'll be a dark spot on the veranda in an hour.

Wear clothing that makes you feel comfortable, not because you are trying to imitate a friend or to impress somebody. Be you and you'll come to love your style.

Get out there, get with it—and shop!

New Year's Bash Greet's Start of Spring Term

Party Also Benefits Tsunami Victims

By Christina Ament

Ten, nine eight, seven....oh, you get the point. Happy New Year! Everyone seems to have their own way of celebrating the start of a new year.

St. Joseph's College is no different—though perhaps a bit later than everyone else. Though it was not being celebrated on the evening of December 31, 2004, with the help of the Campus Activity Board (CAB) and Campus Ministry, the college still celebrated the start of the new year and in fact, the start of a new semester as well.

St. Joseph's New Year's party took place on Tuesday, January 25, 2005 during common hour in the auditorium of Tuohy Hall.

The party has become a tradition at St. Joe's ever since it started eight years ago. It included all the familiar trappings of the seasonal New Year's Eve celebration: music, food, friends, giveaways, hats, noisemakers and a balloon drop during the party.

Also at the party, calendars

were distributed to staff and students to keep them abreast of what the upcoming activities on campus would be for the new year.

Unlike previous St. Joe's New Year's parties, the 2005 edition had a more serious overtone to it. Director of Student Services, Sherri Van Arnem, said that this year's party would feature "a relief effort for the Tsunami victims of South Asia."

To help with the relief effort, the Campus Activities Board and Campus Ministry asked students, faculty, and staff who attended the party to make a donation that would merely be the equivalent of the price of a lunch—especially because lunch was provided at the party.

"Ordinarily, the New Year's Party would just be a happy celebration to see everyone again. But because of what happened in South Asia over the holidays, we should acknowledge that we are a part of a global community. We should reserve some thoughts for all the victims," said Ms. Van Arnem.

"That is why I am glad we are combining the relief with the party," she added.

Ms. Van Arnem believes that having a relief effort would not only benefit the victims, but would also add to the sense of community that St. Joseph's College students and staff feel when it comes to doing charitable works.

"It will make people feel good about themselves to be able to contribute to the relief effort," she said.

Several hundred people attended the party and the spirit of celebration from the actual New Year's Eve seemed to carry over for St. Joseph's party.

"Even though we are back in school and that means lots of work," said freshman Svetlana Medvedeva, "I was happy to see my friends and classmates and finally get the new term going."

So it was better late than never for the revelers at St. Joseph's as the new year began with a spirited and festive party.

**Student Ambassador Club
Trivia Challenge
February 5th, 2005 at 11 AM
Auditorium of Tuohy Hall
RSVP@sjcnvtriviachallenge@yahoo.com
to Watch or Compete!**

Spotlight On: Tom Hoefner

Chapel Players Director a Man in Demand

By Adam Mace

Ambitious, intelligent, and daring. These are all words that can be used in describing Chapel Players Director, Tom Hoefner. Though accurate in describing him, there is a lot more to Mr. Hoefner than a mere three words can encompass.

Tom Hoefner's journey at SJC began in September of 1996 when he entered college as a freshman English major. He quickly joined The Chapel Players, the drama club that would in part shape his destiny and help him find his passion.

It was in Chapel Players that he first met his future fiancée, Jaime Vacca who is now Assistant to the Director of Student Services at SJC. They met when they both were part of the production of *Fallen Angel*.

He acted for a year and a half with the group until the spring of 1998 when he directed his first major production with them, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*.

Following the success of that musical, he returned to an acting role with the group—but it was not the last time he would direct the Chapel Players.

After his senior year during which he served as UA president, he graduated from SJC—but he never really left. After his final production as an SJC student, Neil Simon's *Little Me*, he and Jaime began dating, resulting in an extended stay at St. Joe's.

"It really doesn't feel like I left at all," said Mr. Hoefner.

In the years after his graduation, he directed another Murder Mystery Dinner as well as appearing in two additional Chapel Players productions.

In 2001, he became the full time director at his alma mater—but it was not at St. Joseph's; it was at Holy Child Jesus Parish.

In the summer of 2001, he directed a production of *Annie* with the newly-revived Holy Child Jesus

Teen Drama Club.

The directing jobs kept coming in. In the fall of 2003, he was asked to return to the Chapel Players again to direct. This decision came from a consensus of club members and the club president, Maribel Gonzalez.

"I talked with the club members and they thought it was the best choice we could make," said Ms. Gonzalez. "He was a great help to us all during our production of *The Dining Room*. He gave us more advice than our current director who was constantly MIA," she added.

And just like that, Tom Hoefner came home to St. Joseph's where he directed his second SJC production, *Love is Contagious*.



Director Tom Hoefner

"I prefer academic theater to professional theater," said Mr. Hoefner. "I enjoy giving inexperienced people their first taste of theater and helping them develop into performers," he added.

Sophomore Christopher Burke has acted for Mr. Hoefner and stage managed for him this past fall in the Chapel Players' production of *All in the Timing*, a suite of one act comic plays. He says of his experience with him, "Tom is a fun and energetic person to be around. He cares not

only about directing a good show, but each individual member of the Chapel Players as well. He has been a good friend to me."

Freshman Andrea Rosado, who acted in her first play ever this past fall, says of Mr. Hoefner, "Tom is really calm with his actors. I didn't feel pressured to get everything right the first time. Also, his sense of humor really lightens the mood so everything isn't so serious."

Recently, Mr. Hoefner got a job directing at Archbishop Molloy High School, making it his third alma mater at which he has directed.

"I find it amusing and interesting that my alma maters keep asking me to come back and direct. It shows me the impact I have had on people's lives that they would want me to direct for them."

There are also differences in the various places at which he directs. "I am given much more freedom to experiment and do new and interesting things with the Chapel Players," he said. However, "I have a whole production team at Holy Child Jesus which is something that I don't have here at SJC or at Molloy."

A production team who handle the technical aspects of theater such as set construction, costuming, and lighting, is essential because it frees up the director to concentrate on the staging and character development so vital for a successful show.

Tom Hoefner currently is directing at three locations, teaching at St. Pancras Elementary School, and planning a December 2005 wedding. Though this is a great deal to be on any one person's plate, he says, "I wouldn't change anything, not that I would ever avoid change. The main thing I strive for is never to remain stagnant. I always want to improve myself. But as of right now, I enjoy the path that I am on, yet, continuing evolution of that path is my intention."



THE GAMESMAN

by ROBERT MORRIELLO

RATING THE NEW GAMES

In today's society, people buy games based on two different things: how they are advertised and what other people think of them. Since you can figure out the first two things, I will provide you with a review of two games that I have had an opportunity to play: *Halo 2* and *CSI: Crime Scene Investigators*.

These are not two of the newest games on the market, but don't forget—we are college students. Most of us don't have money for new games after we pay for the basics, so we go with what we can get.

Also, in honor of my favorite game rating show, "X-Play," I will be using a rating system of 1 through 5 to rate these games, 5 being the best and 1 being the worst.

CSI: Crime Scene Investigators for X-Box is a game based on the TV series of the same name, with cases from the two CSI games for the PC games that came out earlier this year.

In the game, you play as the newest intern for the Las Vegas Crime Lab. Just as Gil Grissom, head of the CSI night shift, is giving you his introduction speech, you find out about a new case which you are put on right away.

During the game, it is your job to find clues from the crime scene using the tools of the CSI trade, gather them, and find out who the criminal was by examining the clues you gathered.

You'll have help from Grissom as well as Greg Sanders, Lab Technician and specialist in DNA, fingerprints and all other types of physical evidence. You will also have the help of Captain Jim Brass, your link to the law as well as to warrants, and Al Robbins, Coroner—the man who finds clues on the bodies that you may have missed.

The majority of time in this game is spent looking around rooms searching for and collecting evidence, talking to people, and piecing together the puzzle which is the crime.

The amount of clues in a room is usually small, and when you do find a

clue, it may take some time to figure out which tool to use on some of them. Also, you might spend some time going from place to place hoping you missed something that will cause the game to progress rapidly.

Fans of the show as well as mystery lovers may like the game, but it would probably be a bore to anyone else. I rate this game a boring 2 out of a possible 5.

In *Halo 2*, Master Chief, the cybernetic hero from the original *Halo* game, makes his reappearance, being awakened to accept a medal for destroying the ring planet known as Halo. Also, the Covenant officer in charge of the protection of Halo is seen on trial and receiving his punishment, shown cutting in and out of Master Chief's medal acceptance scene.

During the ceremony, the aliens known as the Covenant decide to drop in and destroy the only thing stopping their conquest of Earth.

In this game, you will play Master Chief and the Covenant officer that was on trial.

Changes have been made to the game play; new weapons have been added and weapons can be used now in combination with others, a technique called double-wielding. Also, your suit defenses are solely based on a shield instead of a shield and a health bar, removing the need for health packs in this game.

Another thing is that you have access to new vehicles as well as the ability to destroy any of the vehicles on the map, making it seem more life-like and giving more options on how to frag your opponent.

There are some other reappearing characters such as the Flood, a race of mutant zombies that eat living beings. With their reappearance, you will be spending part of this game playing *Resident Evil 2552*, going against what seems to be an endless wave of regenerating zombies.

All in all, this game is one of the best first person shooters out there and will not disappoint any *Halo* fans. I rate this game a 5 out of 5.

Chapel Players Christmas Workshop Celebrates Season

By Christina Contessa

The cold weather and the holiday music helped to set the stage. The performers were ready and Christmas came early to St. Joseph's—24 days early, to be exact.

On December 1, 2004, World AIDS Day was celebrated and the Chapel Players performed their annual student workshop. Emceed by Christopher Burke, it was a night where there were no rehearsal scripts and laughter was the prescribed order of the day.

There were many different acts performed at the Christmas Workshop. Adam Mace and Andrea Rosado sang a duet entitled "Written in the Stars" from the Broadway musical, *Aida*. There were also songs from *Beauty and the Beast*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Annie*.

There were also dances performed by Willow Figueroa to music from the smash musical, *The*

Producers and Christine Tobin to music from the show, *Brooklyn: The Musical*.

"Being in the workshop was a lot of fun," said Andrea Rosado. "There was a lot of talent and being in Chapel Players has helped me form many friendships. Even though it was a lot of work, we had a lot of support and I hope to be further involved with Chapel Players and perform with these wonderful people," she added.

Also part of the workshop were monologues performed by Stephen Klein and Tom Brown. "There were a few problems here and there, but it worked out for the best," said Stephen Klein.

As the night began to wind down, the whole cast, including producers Jaime Vacca and Tom Hoefner gave the audience a Christmas carol that they could sing and laugh along with—a parody entitled "SJC's Twelve

Days of Christmas."

In the parody, students were reminded of the free food they receive virtually every day at one activity or another and many other things that students encounter in college.

"The Chapel Players did a great job," said Kristina Stumpf. "Everything went extremely well and the show was hysterical! I was a pleasure to see and it was for a good cause," she added.

Since the workshop was held on World AIDS Day, the Chapel Players wanted to make a contribution to the fight against the world AIDS epidemic.

There were representatives who sold red ribbons and red bracelets that said "SJC Cares" to show support for AIDS research. The proceeds from the night went to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, a non-profit organization that raises money for AIDS within the acting community.



Members of the Chapel Players



Professor Stanley Nevins



Professor Phillip Dehne



ARTSCAPE BY ERIN DORSO

THE YEAR IN REVIEW: TOP FILMS OF '04

Now that the ball has dropped, the champagne has been drunk and the resolutions have been made, let's take a look back at the top ten movies of 2004 as compiled by *Newsweek* magazine.

10. *Kinsey*. Written and directed by Bill Condon. Rated R. This film depicts the life of Alfred Kinsey, a leading social scientist who studied the field of human sexuality. His 1948 book entitled, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* was among the first to address human sexual behavior. Starring Liam Neeson, Tim Curry and Veronica Cartwright.

9. *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. Directed by Alfonso Cuarón. Screenplay by Steven Kloves. Rated PG. It's Harry's third year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry and there is plenty of trouble brewing. Sirius Black, a convicted murderer, has escaped from prison and is after Harry. Starring Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson.

8. *The Manchurian Candidate*. Directed by Jonathan Demme. Screenplay by Daniel Pyne and Dean Georgaris. Rated R. A dark film in which soldiers are captured and brainwashed for sinister purposes during the Gulf War. Starring Denzel Washington, Meryl Streep and Liev Schreiber.

7. *Friday Night Lights*. Directed by Peter Berg. Screenplay by David Aaron Cohen. Rated PG-13. The trials and tribulations of a high school football team as they play their way to the 1988 Texas semifinals. The players try to cope with the pressure put on them by their coaches, families and neighbors. Starring Billy Bob Thornton, Lucas Black and Garrett Hedlund.

6. *The Aviator*. Directed by Martin Scorsese. Written by John Logan. Rated PG-13. This detailed biopic portrays the career of Howard Hughes from the late 1920s to the mid-1940s. It also shows the legendary director and aviator's many love interests with Hollywood actresses. Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett, Kate Beckinsale and

John C. Reilly.

5. *Bad Education*. Written and directed by Pedro Almodóvar. Rated NC-17. A movie which chronicles the effect of Franco-era religious schooling and sexual abuse on two longtime friends. Starring Gael García Bernal, Fele Martínez, and Daniel Giménez Cacho.

4. *Million Dollar Baby*. Directed by Clint Eastwood. Screenplay by Paul Haggis. Rated PG-13. The story of a spirited young woman with the dream of becoming a professional boxer. She struggles to prove her talent to a hardened trainer who is coping with his estrangement from his daughter. They both grow to admire, respect and accept one another. Starring Clint Eastwood, Hilary Swank, Morgan Freeman.

3. *Osama*. Written and directed by Siddiq Barmak. Rated PG-13. A twelve year old Afghan girl and her mother lose their jobs at a hospital when the Taliban closes it. Her mother disguises her as a boy because there is no one to support the family when the men of the house are killed in battle. Starring Marina Golbahari, Arif Herati, Zubaida Sahar.

2. *Before Sunset*. Directed by Richard Linklater. Written by Richard Linklater and Kim Krizan. Rated R. Nine years after they first meet, Jesse and Celine encounter one another again in Paris. They discuss their lives and whether or not they still love each other. Starring Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy.

1. *Sideways*. Directed and written by Alexander Payne. Rated R. Two middle-aged men take a trip through the wine country of California. One man has a fling with a woman he meets while on the trip, even though he is getting married soon. His companion wonders if they should have made the trip after all. Starring Paul Giamatti and Thomas Haden Church.

So those are the choices. Check them out and see if you agree with the critics. Have your own choices? Drop us a line and let us know your personal picks for this year's Academy Awards.

Faculty Members Awarded Research Grants

By Christina Contessa

Have you ever wondered what teachers do in their spare time—besides grading papers and preparing lectures? Many of them do research on topics of interest to them or on what they studied when they earned their degrees.

At St. Joseph's College, a number of teachers received grants from the school last spring to continue their research.

Sixteen members of the faculty received grants to continue their individual investigations. The fields ranged from history to nursing.

The process of applying for a grant is a lengthy one and requires a detailed description of the research project. Once approved, the teachers received their grants by submitting an application to S. Margaret Buckley, Academic Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences (Brooklyn campus) or Dr. Randall Krieg, Academic Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences (Suffolk campus).

All members of the faculty are invited to apply for grants up to the amount of \$750 to support projects

in areas of faculty development.

The grant program is intended for projects not ordinarily covered in the departmental budgets.

The recipients of the grants are allowed to use the money for research, publication costs, travel, attendance at workshops, or purchases of special materials.

Usually these grants are used to pay for the attendance at a conference that teachers attend in order to present a paper or research.

One of the recipients of an academic grant was Professor Stanley Nevins of the Philosophy Department. Professor Nevins went to the 55th Annual Conference of the Southeast Philosophy of Education Society in Tuscaloosa, Alabama in February 2004.

At the conference, Dr. Nevins presented a paper entitled, "The Practical Turn," in which he proposed "the connected view" wherein the liberal humanistic bent and the practical turn are complementary parts in an integrated curriculum.

"I am grateful and delighted for the support that St. Joseph's College provides for the professional interests and devotion of the faculty. It is a win/win situation," said Dr. Nevins about his receiving a grant.

Another grant recipient was Professor Phillip Dehne of the History Department. Professor Dehne spent two weeks in Buenos Aires in August 2004 researching the archives of the British Chamber of Commerce in Argentina.

He planned on expanding his dissertation on British economic warfare in South America during the First World War.

Professor Dehne said of his grant, "The grant was very useful for research. The validity of the use of small grants are crucial to help teachers in research and for teaching in general."

What sounds like "spare time" for grant recipients is, in fact, an opportunity for them to further their expertise in their chosen fields and thereby make their teaching more comprehensive and effective.

Psych Class Aids Foster Care Agency

By Janine Farraj

According to the St. Joseph's College catalog, Psychology 150 is a course entitled "Group Dynamics and Communication." All very academic, all very professional—with a twist.

As part of the course requirements, Professor Diane Sherlip had the members of the class select a community service project that would have them work together as a group for a charitable cause.

The class decided to raise money for the Mercy First Foster Agency of

Brooklyn which places children in foster care.

The students who coordinated the project were Frances Previl, Nicole Monte, Lilliet Chang, Lydia Nicolas, and Anne-Kenya Dubisson.

The group raised over \$700 for the agency and additionally, they were able to solicit donations of clothing for the children.

The class members purchased baby wipes, powder and winter clothes as well as other infant-care accessories that the babies would need in their foster homes.

"The children truly appreciated our help and because of this project, I was able to better understand the struggles of these children," said Anne-Kenya Dubisson.

The administrators of Mercy First expressed their gratitude to the class and to St. Joseph's College for taking the time to provide much-needed help for foster children.

Though the class and project have been completed, the group plans an ongoing effort to continue raising money and obtaining donations for Mercy First.

UPCOMING FEBRUARY EVENTS

All events are during Common Hour unless otherwise noted.

February 7th Club Presidents Meeting

February 14th Valentine's Day Sale
Meet Your Major

February 15th Student Ambassadors Karaoke

February 16th CAB event: J. Ivey

February 17th Black History Month Celebration

February 24th "101 Nights" Senior Celebration/Comedy Night
(7 PM)

February 28th Senate Meeting

Council for the Arts Brings Culture to Campus

Varied Schedule of Activities Keeps Art Scene Hopping

By Allyson Putre

Have you ever wondered how St. Joe's always manages to have something culturally enhancing, enlightening or entertaining going on? Is it luck that the college has events that are able to expand and refine a student's knowledge of the fine arts?

Actually, students at St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn are able to have such exposure to performances and exhibitions because of the Council for the Arts.

The Council for the Arts is a group of volunteers from the college and the surrounding community. The goal of the Council is to encourage students who would not normally take part in cultural events to give something new a try. It might just pique their interest and foster new hobbies and recreational activities, either as a spectator or as a new participant.

All of the performances and events held are free of admission charges and they take place in the auditorium of Tuohy Hall unless otherwise noted.

The Council of the Arts is composed of fourteen volunteer members. It works in conjunction with other student organizations such as the Hispanic Awareness Club, the Campus Activities Board, Chapel Players, the Dance Club and Dance Team.

Thus far, each event of the semester has met with widespread approval by audiences who have found them to be both inspirational and fun-filled.

The first event of the year was

the "Seven Years of Happy Farmers" photography exhibition by art professor Jane Beckwith. Her collection displayed numerous farmers from the Italian countryside going about their daily routines.

The Jade String Trio followed soon thereafter. The trio, three women playing the violin, viola and cello, embraced a wide variety of music ranging from Western classical music, contemporary works and Chinese folk and classical music.

The third event of the term was the performance by the Calpulli Mexican Dance Company. Each native dance was explained by the troupe's emcee, as were the meaning of the colorful costumes that the dancers wore.

Next up was the exposition of Art in Textiles showcasing works of Kelly Fleming, Joanie San Chirico and Barbara Pucci Triton. These three artists displayed their ability to create works of art that were visually stimulating because of their vibrant use of color used in conjunction with a variety of textures and materials.

The fifth event sponsored by the Council for the Arts featured the a capella singing group, Marcoux Corner. They did classic renditions of old favorites and performed comical new songs as well.

The fall production of the Chapel Players, the SJC Drama Club, was *All in the Timing*, a collection of six one-act plays. This was the only arts activity that charged an admission fee for spectators.

Next, "Fall Angles," a perfor-

mance by the Dance Club took to the boards. Choreography was by both professional choreographers and the students themselves. The types of dances varied from traditional ballet to hip hop and jazz.

The short play, "Shake the Soul," was the next arts event performed on World AIDS Day. It was held in conjunction with the viewing of the AIDS Quilt.

At the Holiday Festival, the Brooklyn Philharmonic Chorus performed a program of traditional holiday music.

The final event in the fall term's slate of cultural activities was the Winter Student Art Exhibit. Art students who had worked on projects were able to showcase their creations for the entire campus. A wide variety of artworks were on display from paintings to photographs to sculptures.

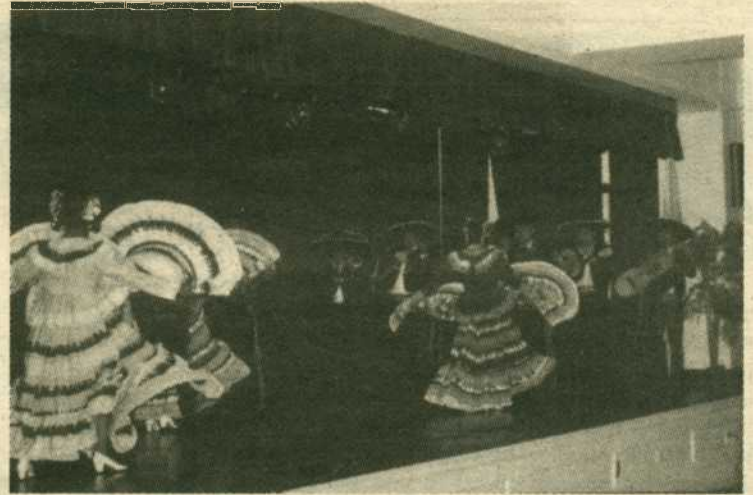
For students who missed any of the activities held during the fall term, the schedule for the spring term is just as full and varied.

There will be a spring production of the Chapel Players, a celebration of Women's History Month, a Spring Student Art Exhibition and many more programs to attend.

Information on any and all events will be posted prominently throughout the school and will also be printed on a master schedule which all students will soon have access to.

The Council for the Arts continues its work exploring new possibilities that will develop in students' a sense of appreciation of culture, art, and personal and group talent.

CAMPUS-WIDE ARTS SCENES



The Calipuli Mexican Dance Company



Chapel Players Rehearse a Scene from All in the Timing

New Philosophy Club Begins

By Gurjit Singh

No one is going to confuse philosophy with one of the more practical college majors like accounting or education. After all, it is rare that one picks up the Sunday Times and sees a classified ad that reads, "Wanted: Philosopher. Must be familiar with Aristotle and Nietzsche."

But that does not mean that the discipline is not a fascinating one, and for that reason, students have begun the process of chartering a new Philosophy Club on campus.

One of the driving forces behind the new club is Professor Stanley Nevins, Chairman of the Philosophy Department. Dr. Nevins earned his B.A. degree in Philosophy from Manhattan College and received both his M.A. and Ph.D. from Fordham University.

The purpose of the club will be to provide a forum in which interested students may ask questions and talk with each other as well as with professors about important but puzzling issues that concern the human condition.

"To allow the students to have greater freedom for discussion and expressions of their opinions on topics of concern beyond the sometimes necessary limits of the classroom is the emphasis of this

club," said Dr. Nevins.

The first meeting of the club will take place in February. At the first organizational meeting, officers will be selected and students will have a chance to discuss the types of issues they would like discussed during regular common hour meetings.

According to Dr. Nevins, what is most important is that students are interested in being part of a discussion group. He notes that there is no point in students attending meetings if they are not willing to share their ideas and talk to others about their thoughts.

Reactions from students have been very encouraging thus far. "It's a long time coming I know the students of SJC will benefit from its existence and I just hope that my peers utilize the opportunity and see it as a way to better understand their cultures, communities and most importantly, themselves," said junior Mary J. Goodwin.

The importance of approaching philosophy outside of a classroom to show its applications in everyday life is another appealing aspect of the club.

Any students interested in joining the Philosophy Club can get more information in the Philosophy Department in St. Angela Hall.

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

Here's our third round of mind-stumping questions for the culturally literate. How much do you know? For the answers, come to Room 607 St. Angela Hall!

1. What is the only animal (besides man) with kneecaps?
2. What is the largest fish in the sea?
3. What American folk hero was a "steel driving man?"
4. Who wrote the famous Puritan sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God?"
5. Who painted the fresco entitled, "The Conversion of St. Paul?"
6. Who composed the Brandenburg Concerti?
7. Sam Huff, Kyle Rote, and Del Shofner played together on what professional football team?
8. In what Broadway musical will we find the song, "Lovely?"
9. On what hill was the Battle of Bunker Hill actually fought?
10. The motto on the Coat of Arms of Great Britain is "Dieu et mon Droit." What does that mean?
11. Which English king was forced to sign Magna Carta in 1215?
12. Will Scarlett, Mudge the Miller and Alan-a-Dale are associates of what literary/folk hero?
13. Only two American Presidents are buried in Arlington National Cemetery. John F. Kennedy is one. Who is the other?



Dance Club Performs at Fall Angles Recital



The AIDS Quilt on Display During World AIDS Day

ST. JOSEPH'S SPORTS



Sports Talk By Adam Mace

CALL THEM WHAT THEY ARE: GREEDY THUGS

There once was a time (or so I have been told), when words such as pride, team loyalty and role model were a major part of the vocabulary of professional sports.

Though it was long before my time, I remember reading about John Blanchard—a *third string* catcher on the New York Yankees who was traded from the team to the Minnesota Twins during the 1964 season. He made \$17,500 a year—and could have been a starter on any other American League team. But he wept like a child at having been traded by the team he loved.

That was team loyalty. Today, it is all about ego. Professional athletes are little more than hired guns. They go where the action is—where they can get top dollar for their services.

It's not about *team* any longer. It's about payday. And paydays for professional athletes border on the obscene.

Twelve to fifteen million dollars a year—for what? You would think these players are rocket scientists or neurosurgeons. They are grown men playing boys' games—and getting paid *sixty* times what the President of the United States earns in a year. I know, I know—the President can't shoot hoops or hit a curve ball.

But if it means a single million dollars more, a player who has been a team's mainstay—the pride of a city—will jump to another club. To hell with the loyal fans. They don't write his checks.

Yes, you want to argue with me. You want to tell me about 'fair market value' and that players only have a limited time to make all the money they can before their playing days run out.

Spare me. In the normal course of human events, a person should be able to live comfortably for a lifetime on what these players make in three years. Think of it: 36 mil? 27 mil? Not enough for them?

Well, not if you are Latrell Sprewell, who complained that he can't feed his family on the paltry 12 million that the Minnesota Timberwolves pay him. The fact that some Americans survive on hamburger and spaghetti even that shames arrogant thugs like Sprewell or keeps him from making such callous remarks.

And, no doubt, there is a legion of mindless fans who shake their heads in agreement with their hero as if to say, "Yeah, the guy's great—and sooo underpaid!"

Doesn't it make you wonder what happened to America's values? Or make you wonder how we

became the great nation we are? (If you mention free enterprise now, I will scream).

Athletes were, once upon a very long time ago, role models. No, they weren't saints. They played hard, drank, swore, and competed as though any single game was Game 7 of the World Series.

But they never *sold* their autographs! Those were perks for the fans who waited for hours to get a glimpse of their heroes. They did charitable works because it was the right thing to do—not because it was a photo op that they could then use as a bargaining chip with management.

A few years ago, Roberto Alomar spit at an umpire. He received a few games suspension. Imagine—he spat at an umpire. Sure, some managers kick dirt on umpires, and that's also unacceptable. But come on—spitting on an umpire?

Naturally, the Major League Players' Association protested any kind of suspension. Just like the NBA Players' Union is protesting the pure criminal thuggery that happened in Detroit when players went into the crowd and punched fans.

No one approves of what some of those fans did—but for a 6' 8" player to punch out a 5' 6" unruly fan, well, talk about a mismatch!

Look, there are wonderful athletes who dedicate much of their time to doing community service. John Elway comes to mind as one of the great ones—not only as a football player, but what he does on behalf of autistic children because his own son is autistic. This is someone young people should look up to—not to some gangster in short pants who must scrape by on 11 million bucks a year.

But who are the real saps? You know the answer to that: the fans. It's the fans who will foot the bill for the likes of Pedro Martinez at Shea Stadium or Randy Johnson at Yankee Stadium.

When does it stop? When baseball tickets are as expensive as courtside seats to a Knicks game? Or when hot dogs cost 10 bucks a pop? Or when a 16 ounce soda hits 5 dollars?

You'd think that for all that money, you would get good clean sportsmanship, honor, loyalty—all those things we once believed in.

But hey, this is America, right? We have a constitutional right to be duped by these criminal-type athletes, just as we have the right to be ignorant of realities.

More and more, lately, we American sports fans have been exercising both those rights—to the extreme.

Lady Bears Stand on the Brink *Injuries and Academics Jeopardize Championship Hopes*

By Christina Ament

What was originally touted as a season of high hopes which would see the Lady Bears catapulted to the conference championship they so narrowly missed last year has quickly become a season of "what might have been."

Though the season began with a 60-15 thrashing of Marymount College, it soon became a struggle to maintain a .500 record with wins against John Jay College, Old Westbury and New Jersey City University balanced by losses to Curry College, Lasell College, Lehman College and CSI.

Then, disaster struck the team—twice, actually. Following the December 4th game against CSI, team co-captain and leader Michelle Softy sustained a season-ending injury.

Her knee had been damaged and under doctor's orders, she took two weeks off, but when she returned to action, against Oberlin, she damaged the knee so severely that surgery was required on January 24, putting her out for the remainder of the season.

The impact of Softy's loss is evident when looking at her statistics up through her last game. She was leading the team in scoring

with an average of 17 points per game. She also was the leader in 3-point goals with 14.

As if that weren't bad enough, she also led the team with a 100% free throw record and was 3rd on the team with a total of 17 steals.

Compounding the difficulties for the Lady Bears is the fact that three other team members, all freshmen including one starter, have lost their eligibility for academic reasons.

Participants in collegiate academics are expected to maintain at least a C average to keep their eligibility. Though this might not seem to be too difficult a task, it can be very challenging for students right out of high school who must combine numerous hours of class time, studying and practice.

For the three ineligible players, the task proved too great and now the team must make due with players off the bench.

In the December 18th game against New Jersey City University, sophomore Carole Jeanne Kavanagh stepped up and filled some of the void left when Michele Softy was lost.

In the game she scored 14 points and had 7 boards—the best performance of her career. Lynette Reyes

contributed 11 points and 8 rebounds.

All 11 players on the squad scored in the game which hung in the balance until a 16-4 fourth quarter run put the Lady Bears over the top for good.

Though the win brought the team's record back to 4-4, the early days of January were not kind to the Lady Bears as they suffered two losses in a row—a 77-67 defeat at the hands of Oberlin College in a game held at Christ the King High School in Middle Village, Queens, and a heartbreaking 54-52 loss in a game against Immaculata College of Pennsylvania.

Rebuilding a team in the middle of a season is a difficult task. But now, it will be up to the remainder of the team to rally and keep playoff hopes alive.

Players such as co-captain Lauren Zecca who leads the team in assists and is tied for the lead in steals and freshman Svetlana Medvedeva who has 5 blocked shots in limited play must now be the catalysts for the balance of the season.

It was all supposed to end at Rhema Bible College in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the National USCAA tournament. Now, it is anybody's guess what the rest of the season has in store for the Lady Bears.

Men's Basketballers Ride the Roller Coaster

By Adam Mace

You win some, you lose some—but if you expect to get to the Hudson Valley Conference Title, you better not make a steady habit of matching wins with losses.

That seems to be the story for the St. Joseph's Mens Basketball team for the 2004-2005 season: flashes of brilliance followed by strings of defeats enabling the team to keep above the .500 winning mark—but just barely.

The month of December was typical of the way the season has gone. On December 2, the Bears faced Brooklyn College. The fourth quarter saw a 12-0 run for St. Joe's that brought the score to 70-69 with less than a minute to play, but the team couldn't close the deal, failing to convert on two possessions, finally losing the game 74-69.

Some positives came out of the game, though. Chris Stefano had 20 points for the Bears to go with his 7 boards. Mike Donnelly added 17 points and 4 assists, and

Chris Olaskiewicz had 9 points and 12 rebounds.

Three days later, it was a different story as the Bears won their conference opener vs. Bard College by the score of 61-54. A 13-2 second half run opened the lead to 40-25.

In the game, Lukasz Cygan and Chris DiStefano both had 17 points. Chris Olaskiewicz grabbed a season-high 13 rebounds for the Bears.

Another victory against Williamson Free Trade School followed on December 18. Though they trailed by 9 points at the half, the Bears rallied behind Chris DiStefano's 16 points and 7 rebounds.

Lukasz Cygan chipped in with 12 points and 7 boards, and TJ Byrnes poured in 12 points, all in the second half.

Thus far in the season, Wayne Warmbier has been average better than 83% from the free throw line and Chris Olaskiewicz has over 90 rebounds to lead the team. He also leads the squad in blocked shots and

total field goal percentage.

So there are bright spots in the season, but apparent weaknesses as well. For instance, against Briarcliffe on November 30, the Bears managed to bucket a mere 2 points in the first 8 minutes of play—hardly the stuff of conference champs.

The rest of the schedule gets considerably tougher than the first half with two games against arch-rival Pratt Institute, and rematches with Brooklyn College and the College of Staten Island.

The Hudson Valley Conference Tournament is scheduled for February 19-20 at Bard College. The USCAA Nationals take place during the first week of March at New Hampshire Tech.

If the Bears have any hopes of copping the conference crown, then DiStefano, Byrnes, Olaskiewicz, Donnelly and company will have to bring their best game.

It's that, or come home empty-handed yet again.

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